

| 2022 Hoke County State of the County Health (SOTCH)



Our Mission

The mission of the Hoke County Health Department is to provide public health services that promote, protect, and preserve the wellness of Hoke County citizens and the surrounding communities.

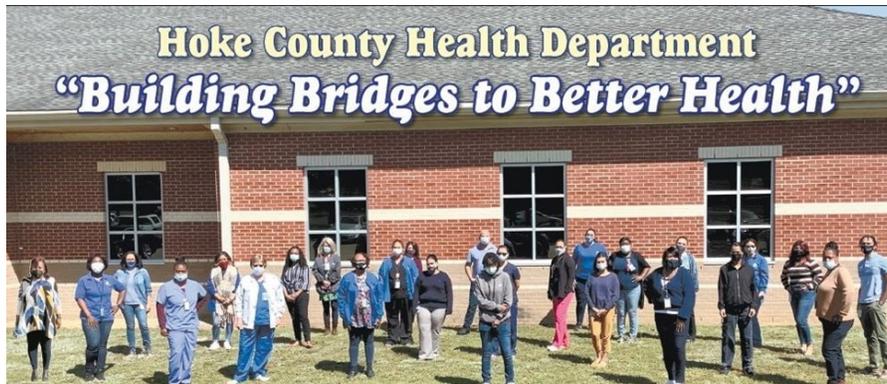
Our Vision

The vision of the Hoke County Health Department is to advocate, educate, and empower Hoke County citizens to improve their health by achieving health equity and eliminating disparities.

Core Values of the Hoke County Health Department

We believe in...

- Fostering positive partnerships with other community agencies.
- Being an innovative community resource for healthy lifestyle changes
- Delivering premier healthcare services to our patrons.
- Providing educational programs to empower participants to strive for excellence in health.
- Embracing and respecting the cultural diversity of our community.



Conducting a community health assessment is an ongoing process that engages diverse agencies, providers, and individuals in identifying community assets, strengths, and unmet needs. This 2021 State of the County Health Report (SOTCH) updates documented progress on local health concerns and the actions being taken to address them. It uses the most recent data to highlight the leading Hoke County causes of death and disease and progress toward addressing the top health concerns identified in the 2021 Community Health Assessment (CHA). **Information provided within this report is specific to the identified priority health issues:**

- **Chronic Diseases**
- **Behavioral Health**
- **Equitable Access to Healthcare.**

The report also provides updated data and information about Hoke County's mortality and morbidity rates, emerging issues, new initiatives, and a demonstration of progress made in the last year regarding these health priorities. Monitoring the health of a community is an essential function of a local public health department, and measures of mortality are indicators that are frequently used. Using information about the leading causes of death and premature death, we collaborate with our partners to educate the community about reducing the risk of certain conditions, adopting healthier lifestyles, and ensuring access to quality medical screenings and treatment. Together, we are creating communities that promote health.

Community Overview

Hoke County, located in southeastern North Carolina, is racially, ethnically, linguistically, and geographically diverse. Located in the sandhills region of southeastern North Carolina, Hoke County was formed in 1911 and comprised 391 square miles of land and 1.6 miles covered by water. Hoke is one of the top five fastest-growing counties in North Carolina and is proud of its annual Fall Festival. The county has a golf course, P.K. Airport, a wind tunnel, an ethanol plant, the Carolina Horse Park, Burlington Industries, Butterball, Sunpath, and Unilever. A large part of the county is covered by the Fort Bragg Military Reservation, which continually increases the county's population with military families. The growth is partly due to Base

Realignment and Closure (BRAC).

The county's rapid development over the past 20 years has included dramatic demographic shifts, with the largest population growth among the military, Latinos, and families with young children. Mental health, infectious disease prevention, health inequities, and addressing the root causes of chronic disease have been identified as the most critical issues affecting the county's public health.

Where we live influences our health, and demographic information helps to understand trends and project potential needs for public health services for the population. Demographic, socioeconomic, and environmental factors contribute to health behaviors, outcomes, healthcare utilization patterns, and community health needs unique to Hoke County. Hoke County's demographics are described in the following tables.

Table 1. The population of Hoke County, 2016-2021

Years	Number	Percent Change
2016	51,853	---
2017	52,571	1.38%
2018	53,239	1.27%
2019	53,957	1.35%
2020	52,082	-3.47%*
2021	52,169	0.17%

*represents redistricting within the county

Age distribution reflects the proportion of individuals at different life stages. Hoke County continues to have a somewhat stable age distribution and reflects the most significant population from 25 to 64, workforce and family-bearing age. The age structures may be critical in shaping community needs, resources, and services.

Table 2. Age Distribution in Hoke County, 2017-2021

Total Population	2017 2021			
	Number		Percent	
	2017	2021	2017	2021
	52,571	52,169		
Under five years	4,680	4,296	8.9%	8.2%
5 to 9 years	3,911	3,981	7.4%	7.6%
10 to 14 years	4,115	3,969	7.8%	7.6%
15 to 24	6,505	6,263	12.4%	12.0%
25 to 64	28,804	28,258	54.8%	54.2%
65 to 84	4,067	4,795	7.7%	9.2%
85 and older	489	607	0.9%	1.2%

Racial and ethnic diversity has been increasing recently in Hoke County. According to the 2021 Census, the population demographics include White, at 43.4%, 33.2% Black or African American, 14.3% of the population is Hispanic/Latino, 7.7% identify with two or more races, 7.3% American Indian and Alaska Native, followed by 1.5% Asian, and 0.1% Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.

As seen below in Table 3., Below Poverty Status in Hoke County by Race provides a snapshot of population groups that may further benefit from targeted public health services. Those that live in or below poverty are at increased risk for mental illness, chronic disease, higher mortality, and lower life expectancy.

Table 3. Below Poverty Status in Hoke County by Race/Ethnicity, 2021

Race/Ethnicity	Number	Percent
American Indian / Alaska Native	1,067	28.9%
Asian	28	3.5%
Hispanic	2,035	28.1%
Pacific Islander / Native Hawaiian	22	35.5%
Two or more races	787	20.2%
White	2,783	12.6%

Median Household Income (in 2021 dollars), 2017-2021	
Hoke	\$53,456
North Carolina	\$60,516
United States	\$69,021

Unemployment	
Hoke	4.5%
North Carolina	3.8%
United States	3.5%

Hoke County vs. North Carolina Resident Pregnancy Rates per 1,000 population (2016-2020)

Persons without health insurance, under age 65 years, percent	
Hoke	15.4%
North Carolina	12.4%

Persons in Poverty	
Hoke	15.5%
North Carolina	13.4%

United States				9.8%				United States				11.6%	
Residence	White Non-Hispanic Pregnancies	Pregnancy Rate	African American Non-Hispanic Pregnancies	Pregnancy Rate	Other Non-Hispanic Pregnancies	Pregnancy Rate	Hispanic Pregnancies	Pregnancy Rate	Total	Pregnancy Rate			
Hoke 15-17	7	*	24	11.4	14	*	10	*	55	10.6			
NC 15-17	3,302	6.0	4,175	17.2	378	8.1	2,730	19.6	10,728	10.9			
Hoke 15-19	50	21.1	90	27.4	46	42.1	56	44.4	243	30.4			
NC 15-19	15,457	16.3	15,098	35.2	1,566	19.9	9,547	42.5	42,238	25.1			
Hoke 15-44	2,175	89.8	1,433	73.1	504	72.2	871	98.6	5,014	84.1			
NC 15-44	360,620	60.0	199,507	79.2	41,408	73.4	108,660	97.3	716,534	70.2			

Note: * represents rates based on small numbers (fewer than 20 cases) that are unstable and unreported.

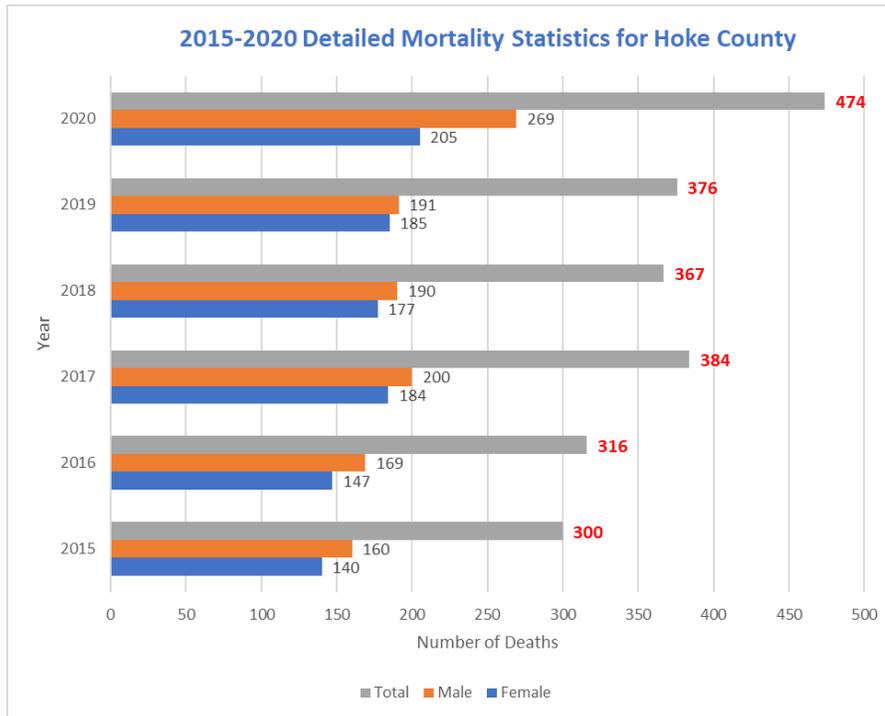
Within Hoke County, it is noted that females between the ages of 15-17 represented less than 20 cases of pregnancies within the White Non-Hispanic, other Non-Hispanic, and Hispanic communities. However, even though the African American Non-Hispanic community had a rate of 11.4 per 1,000, they still were a little less than 6% compared to the state's rate.

Hoke County's females between the ages of 15-19 ranked almost 5% higher in pregnancy rates per 1,000 population than the states. Within the White Non-Hispanic community, the rate was 21.1 compared to NC (16.3), and the Hoke County Hispanic community ranked higher at 44.4 compared to NC (42.5). Strikingly, Hoke County's Other Non-Hispanic community ranked over double (42.1) the state's rate of 19.9.

Hoke County represented 0.7% of the pregnancies within North Carolina between females aged 15 and 44 between 2016 and 2020, yet had a rate of 14.1% higher than NC per 1,000 population. Also, within this time frame, Hoke County had a rate higher among White Non-Hispanic pregnancies at a little less than 30% higher with Hoke (89.8) and NC (60), and within the Hispanic Community, Hoke was just a little over 1% higher at 98.6 comparable to NC at 97.3

Mortality and Morbidity Changes

Mortality and Morbidity rates can be reduced when the community has equitable access to transportation, such as health screenings, routine testing, vaccinations, and language services. Data derived from the State Center for Health Statistics County Health Data and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation—County Health Rankings provide information regarding morbidity and mortality prevalence rates and other pertinent information.



The Infant Mortality Rate is a public health indicator of a complex societal problem. Sudden unexpected infant deaths occur suddenly and unexpectedly in previously healthy infants under one year of age. They are commonly reported as accidental suffocation, strangulation in bed, unknown causes, and sudden infant death syndrome. According to SHIFT NC, Hoke County is ranked twenty-third (23) in North Carolina for the number of teenage pregnancies. In 2018, Hoke County had 53 pregnancies among 15-19-year-old girls, with a rate of 33.4 per 1,000. Hoke County has an 8.8% higher rate than North Carolina, which has a rate of 24.6. Of those pregnancies, seven were among 15-17-year-old girls, and 46 were among 18-19-year-old girls. As of the end of 2018, the county has a teen birth rate per 1,000 15-19-year-old girls at 27, significantly higher than the rate of NC, ranked at 18.7.

Hoke County vs. North Carolina Resident Fetal Death Rates per 1,000 deliveries (2016-2020)

Residence	White Non-Hispanic Fetal Deaths	Fetal Death Rate	African American Non-Hispanic Fetal Deaths	Fetal Death Rate	Other Non-Hispanic Fetal Deaths	Fetal Death Rate	Hispanic Fetal Deaths	Fetal Death Rate	Total Fetal Deaths	Fetal Death Rate
Hoke County Fetal Death Rate per 1,000 deliveries	9	*	10	*	7	*	5	*	31	7.1
North Carolina Fetal Death Rate per 1,000 deliveries	1,578	4.9	1,621	11.2	210	5.8	506	5.4	3,915	6.5

Note: * represents rates based on small numbers (fewer than 20 cases) that are unstable and unreported.

Due to numbers being less than 20 cases and not reported, it was unclear to distinguish the rate for Hoke County to provide a valid comparison. However, Hoke County continues to experience a higher rate of fetal deaths compared to the state of North Carolina. Hoke County had a 0.8% higher rate than North Carolina, with a rate of 7.1 compared to North Carolina's 6.5.

Hoke County vs. North Carolina Resident Neonatal Death Rates per 1,000 deliveries (2016-2020)

Residence	White Non-Hispanic Neonatal Deaths	Neonatal Death Rate	African American Non-Hispanic Neonatal Deaths	Neonatal Death Rate	Other Non-Hispanic Neonatal Deaths	Neonatal Death Rate	Hispanic Neonatal Deaths	Neonatal Death Rate	Total Neonatal Deaths	Neonatal Death Rate
Hoke County Neonatal Death Rate per 1,000 deliveries	8	*	8	*	6	*	3	*	25	5.7
North Carolina Neonatal Death Rate per 1,000 deliveries	1,024	3.2	1,224	8.5	158	4.4	382	4.1	2,788	4.7

Note: * represents rates based on small numbers (fewer than 20 cases) that are unstable and unreported.

Due to numbers being less than 20 cases and not reported, it needed to be clearer to distinguish the rate for Hoke County to provide a valid comparison. However, Hoke County continues to experience a higher rate of neonatal deaths compared to the state of North Carolina. Hoke County had a 1.0% higher rate than North Carolina, with a rate of 5.7 compared to North Carolina's 4.7.

Hoke County vs. North Carolina Resident Post Neonatal (28 days – 1 year) Death Rates (2016-2020)

Residence	White Non-Hispanic Post Neonatal Deaths	Post Neonatal Death Rate	African American Non-Hispanic Post Neonatal Deaths	Post Neonatal Death Rate	Other Non-Hispanic Post Neonatal Deaths	Post Neonatal Death Rate	Hispanic Post Neonatal Deaths	Post Neonatal Death Rate	Total Post Neonatal Deaths	Post Neonatal Death Rate

Hoke County Post Neonatal Death Rate per 1,000 deliveries	5	*	1	*	0	*	1	*	11	*
North Carolina Post Neonatal Death Rate per 1,000 deliveries	559	1.7	596	4.2	59	1.7	142	1.5	1,356	2.3

Note: * represents rates based on small numbers (fewer than 20 cases) that are unstable and unreported.

Hoke County vs. North Carolina Resident Infant (<1 year) Death Rates per 1,000 live births (2016-2020)

Residence	White Non-Hispanic Infant Deaths	Infant Death Rate	African American Non-Hispanic Infant Deaths	Infant Death Rate	Other Non-Hispanic Infant Deaths	Infant Death Rate	Hispanic Infant Deaths	Infant Death Rate	Total Infant Deaths	Infant Death Rate
Hoke County Post Neonatal Death Rate per 1,000 deliveries	9	*	16	*	7	*	4	*	36	8.2
North Carolina Post Neonatal Death Rate per 1,000 deliveries	1,583	4.9	1,820	12.7	217	6.1	524	5.6	4,144	7.0

Note: * represents rates based on small numbers (fewer than 20 cases) that are unstable and unreported.

Due to numbers being less than 20 cases and not reported, it needed to be clearer to distinguish the rate for Hoke County to provide a valid comparison. However, Hoke County continues to experience a higher rate of infant deaths compared to the state of North Carolina. Hoke County had a 1.2% higher rate than North Carolina, with a rate of 8.2 compared to North Carolina's 7.0.

Unadjusted Child Death Rates per 100,000 population, 2016-2020, based on county residence for children 0-17

Infant and Child Death Data	Hoke County			North Carolina		
	Deaths 0-17	Pop 0-17	Death Rate 0-17	Deaths 0-17	Pop 0-17	Death Rate 0-17
Unadjusted Child (0-17) Death Rate per 100,000 population	56	74,625	75.0	6,472	11,514,376	56.2

Between 2016-2020 Hoke County experienced 56 deaths of children between 0 and 17 compared to North Carolina's loss of 6,472. In comparison, of the total number of children's death, Hoke County experienced almost a 20% high child death rate at 75.0 compared to North Carolina's rate of 56.2.

Leading Causes of Death

Although there have been improvements, we face challenges in ensuring all Hoke residents benefit equally. Some residents are at higher risk of death than others because of their health behaviors, the environment in which they live, their educational and employment opportunities, and their access to medical care. We continue to work with our partners to close these gaps.

While the death rates from many causes of death are decreasing, others have been more resistant to change. As the population ages, the number of deaths from Alzheimer’s disease continues to increase, creating the need for good support services for individuals and their caregivers. Intentional and unintentional injuries—such as homicide, suicide, motor vehicle crash, and drug overdose—often affect younger people, dramatically impacting premature death; therefore, injury prevention initiatives in a community can help increase life expectancy.

**Leading Causes of Death in
Hoke County 2019**

Rank	Cause	Number	%
1	Diseases of heart	71	18.9
2	Cancer	69	18.4
3	Chronic lower respiratory diseases	25	6.6
4	Alzheimer's disease	20	5.3
5	Diabetes mellitus	20	5.3
6	Cerebrovascular diseases	19	5.1
7	All other unintentional injuries	18	4.8
8	Motor vehicle injuries	11	2.9
9	Assault (homicide)	10	2.7
10	Certain conditions originating in the perinatal period	8	2.1
	All other causes (Residual)	105	27.9
Total Deaths -- All Causes		376	100